

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A water repelling cap for a container having an opening with a rim, said cap comprising:

a closure shell; and

a non-wetting material layer comprising a primer and an additive in amounts effective for rendering said material layer non-wetting, and deposited over at least a portion of an inside surface of said closure shell, wherein said material layer is an outermost layer of said cap inside surface.

Claim 2 (Original): The water repelling cap of claim 1, wherein said portion comprises an area between an edge of said cap and a region of said inner surface in a sealing contact with said opening.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The water repelling cap of claim 1, wherein said non-wetting material layer comprises at least one of a polyvinyl chloride, a polyester, a polyketone, an epoxy, a phenolic, and a polyacrylic.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The water repelling cap of claim 3, wherein said additive comprises ZONYL.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The water repelling cap of claim 4, wherein a ZONYL concentration in said non-wetting material layer has a dry weight ratio ranging from approximately 1 to approximately 10%.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The water repelling cap of claim 5, wherein said dried concentration is about 4%.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The water repelling cap of claim 3, wherein said primer comprises a PVC-free lacquer.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The water repelling cap of claim 7, wherein said PVC-free lacquer comprises at least one of a polyester and an epoxy-phenolic resin.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The water repelling cap of claim 8, wherein said additive comprises TEFLON.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The water repelling cap of claim 9, wherein a TEFLON concentration in said non-wetting material layer has a dry weight ratio ranging from approximately 1 to approximately 10 %.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The water repelling cap of claim 10, wherein said dried concentration is about 7 %.

Claim 12 (Original): The water repelling cap of claim 1, wherein said closure shell is one of a crown cap, and a roll-on cap.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): A method for manufacturing a water repelling cap, comprising:

providing a metallic sheet having a top surface and a bottom surface;

applying a non-wetting material layer comprising a primer and an additive in amounts effective for rendering said material layer non-wetting, to one of said surfaces; and

forming said cap from said metallic sheet, wherein said material layer is an outermost layer of said cap.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 13, further comprising applying a coat of varnish to said metallic sheet and curing said coat of varnish before applying said non-wetting material layer.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 14, further comprising transferring an ink to said metallic sheet, so as to imprint thereon at least one of a brand logo, a producer logo, and a promotional message, and curing said ink before applying said material layer.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 13, wherein said non-wetting material layer comprises at least one of a polyvinyl chloride, a polyester, a polyketone, an epoxy, a phenolic, and a polyacrylic.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 16, wherein said additive comprises ZONYL.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 17, wherein a ZONYL concentration in said non-wetting material layer has a dry weight ratio ranging from approximately 1 to approximately 10%.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 18, wherein said dried concentration is about 4%.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 13, wherein said primer comprises a PVC-free lacquer.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 20, wherein said PVC-free lacquer comprises at least one of a polyester and an epoxy-phenolic resin.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 21, wherein said additive comprises TEFLON.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 22, wherein a TEFLON concentration in said non-wetting material layer has a dry weight ratio ranging from approximately 1 to approximately 10 %.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 23, wherein said dried concentration is about 7 %.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn): A method for manufacturing a water repelling cap, comprising:

providing a metallic sheet;

forming at least one cap from said metallic sheet; and

applying a non-wetting material layer comprising a primer and an additive in amounts effective for rendering said material layer non-wetting to at least a portion of an inner surface of said cap, wherein said material layer is an outermost layer of said cap.

Claim 26 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 25, wherein said applying comprises applying said non-wetting material layer to an area between an edge of said cap and a region of said inner surface in a sealing contact with said opening.

Claim 27 (Withdrawn): A method for manufacturing a water repelling cap, comprising:

providing a roll-on metallic cap; and

applying a non-wetting material layer comprising a primer and an additive in amounts effective for rendering said material layer non-wetting to at least a portion of an inner surface of said cap, wherein said material layer is an outermost layer of said cap.

Claim 28 (Original): A water repelling cap for a container having an opening with a rim, said cap comprising:

a closure cap; and

non-wetting means for repelling moisture from confined regions between an inside surface of said cap and an outside surface of said container.

Claim 29 (Original): The water repelling cap of claim 28, wherein said non-wetting means is disposed substantially on an area between an edge of said cap and a region of an inner surface of said container in sealing contact with said opening.

Claim 30 (Original): The water repelling cap of claim 28, wherein said cap is a linerless cap.

Claim 31 (Original): The water repelling cap of claim 28, wherein said cap is one of a crown cap and a roll-on cap.